

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: MORO PREPARES TO FISH OR
CUT BAIT

REF: ROME 1724

1. PREMIER-DESIGNATE MORO'S EFFORTS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT ARE AT CRITICAL STAGE, WITH SUCCESS OR FAILURE EXPECTED TO BECOME EVIDENT BEFORE THE WEEKEND. LABORIOUSLY WORKED OUT DC COMPROMISE ECONOMIC PROPOSALS WILL BE UNVEILED FOR SOCIALISTS, REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TODAY (FEBRUARY 4). SOCIALIST LEADERS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT MAXIMUM SUPPORT THEY CAN GIVE IS BENEVOLENT ABSTENTION IN PARLIAMENT FOR AN ALL-DC (MONOCOLORE) GOVERNMENT.

2. IF SOCIALISTS ACCEPT DC PROPOSALS CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT MORO WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT SUCCESS TO PRESIDENT LEONE AND PROCEED TO FORM DC MONOCOLORE GOVERNMENT. ONLY FLY IN OINTMENT COULD BE REPUBLICAN PARTY ATTITUDE, SHOULD PRI FEEL THAT MORO'S ECONOMIC PROPOSALS CONSTITUTE SELLOUT OF MORO-LA MALFA
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GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PLAN. DC CENTER AND RIGHT FORCES COULD

BE EXPECTED TO PRESSURE MORO NOT TO OPENLY DUMP PRI IN ORDER TO WIN SOCIALIST FAVOR.

3. IF SOCIALISTS SAY "NO", PRESIDENT LEONE AND THE DC WILL HAVE HARD DECISION TO MAKE. MANY IN DC PARTY WOULD THEN FAVOR MOVE BY PRESIDENT TO SEND MORO-LA MALFA TO PARLIAMENT TO FACE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE - A VOTE THEY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LOSE. RESULT WOULD BE EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THIS SPRING.

4. ALTERNATIVELY, LEONE COULD CHOOSE ANOTHER FORMATEUR. IN THAT EVENT, ANDREOTTI FORCES IN DC ARE EXPECTED TO COME INTO OPEN WITH DEMAND THAT BATON BE PASSED TO THEIR LEADER TO ATTEMPT DEAL WITH PSI. ANDREOTTI HAS ALREADY OPENLY CRITICIZED MORO FOR NOT TRYING HARD ENOUGH FOR DC-PSI ACCORD. HOWEVER, DC SOURCES REPORT THAT ANDREOTTI WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING MAJORITY OF PARTY TO SUPPORT A MOVE WHICH WOULD SO OPENLY BREACH THE FACADE OF PARTY UNITY MAINTAINED THUS FAR.

4. COMMENT: A DANGEROUS PARADOX IS NOW CONDITIONING THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MAIN ACTORS IN THIS GOVERNMENT CRISIS. ON THE ONE HAND, THE MONETARY CRISIS HAS HAD EFFECT OF PRESSURING MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTIES (AND PARTICULARLY THE DC) TO GREATER EFFORTS FOR A QUIET SOLUTION. ON THE OTHER, HOWEVER, RESTRICTIVE NATURE OF ECONOMIC MEASURES NEEDED TO FACE DETERIORATING SITUATION MAKE EVEN A LIMITED DC-PSI ECONOMIC COMPROMISE MORE DIFFICULT. THIS FACTOR, COMBINED WITH PROBABLY IRRECONCILABLE DC-PSI DIFFERENCES ON ABORTION ISSUE AND DC FEAR OF POOR SHOWING IN SCHEDULED LOCAL ELECTIONS THIS SPRING, LEADS MANY DC SOURCES TO PREDICT EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. EVEN IF MORO SUCCEEDS IN FORMING DC MONOCOLORE GOVERNMENT, MOST OBSERVERS NOW DOUBT THAT SUCH A GOVERNMENT COULD LAST MORE THAN FEW MONTHS. VOLPE

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